The Government do not entirely agree with the opinion of the authors because productivity of oilseeds has increased from 570 kgs./ha. in 1985-86 to 848 kgs./ha. in 1994-95 and as such the oilseeds production has gone up on account of increase in area, higher productivity on account of Research and Development efforts and remunerative prices to the farmers.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research as a part of this R and D programme has already launched All India Coordinated Research Projects on Oilseeds and evolved better varieties of seeds and better production technology. The Government has promoted R and D in the post harvest and processing technologies through the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The Government is also promoting oil palm cultivation in the country.

Review of TADA Cases

*276. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission and the National Minorities Commission recommended to review the TADA cases in their respective reports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b). National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has not specifically recommended to the Central Government to review TADA cases. However, the Commission has been reviewing the position with regard to TADA cases since 1995-96 with representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the State governments. In its Annual Report for 1995-96, the Commission has urged that the Review Committees set up in individual states should meet regularly as has been directed by the Supreme Court. The National Commission for Minorities has, however, not made any recommendation regarding reviewing of TADA cases, although in June 1994 it had recommended repeal of TADA Act.

(c) Apart from periodic review of TADA cases by the Central Review Committee and the State Review Committees, Central Government has issued instructions to the State Governments/UTs from time to time that adequate and immediate steps must be taken for early completion of investigation and prosecution of the TADA cases and they should give strict instructions to their prosecution branches not to obtain adjournment in such cases. As regards cases which are at trial stage, they have been advised to take measures to facilitate speedy trial. The Central Government is closely monitoring the progress in these respects.

Konkan Railway Project

*277. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the schedule of the Konkan Railway Project as originally conceived/approved and the cost estimates thereof;

(b) whether the schedule for completion of the project has been badly delayed, leading to the huge cost over-runs;

(c) whether several tunnels and portions of this Railway line have caved in, resulting in huge loss of the human lives and money;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The Konkan Railway project as originally conceived was to be completed in a period of 5 years viz. by Oct.'95. The cost of the projects as sanctioned was Rs. 1043 crs. at 1989-90 price level

(b) Due to agitation in Goa, and unexpected geological and other technical problem as well as financial constraints, the project is slightly delayed, and it is expected to be completed by Oct'96 for goods traffic and Dec'96 for passenger traffic.

(c) and (d). There were a few cases of tunnel collapses and failure of cutting slopes/embankments. However, considering the adverse soil conditions in which these tunnels and cuttings/embankments are made and the heavy intensity of rain fall in the area, such failures could not be avoided. The total number of casualties on account of tunnel collapses was 19. All these deceased men were belonging to tunnel contractors and necessary exgratia payment and compensation has been arranged in all cases and employment to one dependent of each deceased person has been offered by KRCL.

(e) The project is nearing completion and is expected to be commisioned for goods traffic by Oct'96 and passenger traffic by Dec'96.

National Watershed Development Projects

*278. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of National Watershed Development Projects during the last three years;